

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. **(currently amended):** A method for use in the manufacturing of a fluid dynamic pressure bearing, the bearing comprising a shaft having a bearing surface and a sleeve having a bearing surface, wherein the shaft is received within the sleeve, and wherein the bearing surfaces of the shaft and sleeve confront and are spaced from one another, whereby a gap is defined between the bearing surface of the shaft and the bearing surface of the sleeve, said method comprising:

storing oil, which will serve as a lubricating fluid of the fluid dynamic pressure bearing, in a first vacuum chamber, and evacuating the first chamber to establish a pressure in the first vacuum chamber which is lower than atmospheric pressure;

placing the shaft and sleeve of the fluid dynamic pressure bearing in a second vacuum chamber, and evacuating the second ~~pressure~~ vacuum chamber to establish a pressure in the second vacuum chamber which is lower than atmospheric pressure;

terminating the evacuation of the first and second vacuum chambers at such a time that the pressure in the first vacuum chamber is lower than the pressure in the second vacuum chamber; and

while the pressure in each of the first and second vacuum chambers is lower than atmospheric pressure, and the pressure in the first vacuum chamber is lower than the pressure in the second vacuum chamber, feeding the oil from the first vacuum chamber into the second vacuum chamber via piping that places the first and second vacuum chambers in communication with one another and terminates

adjacent the gap defined between the bearing surfaces of the shaft and sleeve, thereby supplying the oil to the fluid dynamic pressure bearing.

2. (canceled)

3. (previously presented): A method according to Claim 1, wherein the supplying of the oil to the fluid dynamic pressure bearing comprises opening a valve disposed in the piping.

4. (canceled)

5. (previously presented): A method according to Claim 1, wherein the liquid level of the oil stored in the first vacuum chamber is higher than the fluid dynamic pressure bearing, when the oil is supplied through the piping to the fluid dynamic pressure bearing.

6. (canceled)

7. (previously presented): A method according to Claim 3, wherein the liquid level of the oil stored in the first vacuum chamber is higher than the fluid dynamic pressure bearing, when the oil is supplied through the piping to the fluid dynamic pressure bearing.

8. (canceled)

9. (previously presented): A method according to Claim 1, further comprising dripping the oil into the first vacuum chamber while the pressure in the first vacuum chamber is lower than atmospheric pressure to degas the oil.

10. (canceled)

11. **(previously presented):** A method according to Claim 1, wherein the pressure established in the second vacuum chamber is not more than 1000 Pa.

12. **(canceled)**

13. **(previously presented):** A method for use in the manufacturing of a fluid dynamic pressure bearing, a first member having a bearing surface, and a second member having a bearing surface, the first and second member being supported relative to one another such that the bearing surfaces thereof confront and are spaced from one another, whereby a gap is defined between the bearing surfaces, the method comprising:

degassing oil, which will serve as a lubricating fluid of the fluid dynamic pressure bearing, in a first environment under a first pressure which is lower than atmospheric pressure;

placing the first and second members in a second environment under a pressure lower than atmospheric pressure and higher than the pressure in the first environment; and

supplying the degassed oil to the gap between the bearing surfaces of the first and second members of the fluid dynamic pressure bearing while the first and second members are in the second environment under pressure lower than atmospheric pressure and higher than the pressure in the first environment; and

subsequently increasing the pressure in the second environment to force the oil into the gap between the bearing surfaces of the first and second members of the hydrodynamic fluid.

14. **(previously presented):** The method as claimed in claim 13, wherein the increasing of the pressure in the second environment comprises feeding air into the second environment.

15. (previously presented): A method according to Claim 13, wherein the degassing of the oil comprises dripping the oil into the first environment while the pressure in the first environment is lower than atmospheric pressure to degas the oil.